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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kazuo SUGAI et al.  
Serial No.: 09/622,484  
Filed: January 2, 2001  
For: NETWORK FORWARDING DEVICE AND NETWORK NEXT-HOP SEARCH METHOD  
Group: 2143  
Examiner: M. Kianersi  
Confirmation No.: 6568

**LETTER TO EXAMINER**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 8, 2004

Sir:

Applicants received a Notice of Allowability in this application dated October 26, 2004. The Notice of Allowability states that a certified copy of PCT/JP98/01232 had not been received. This application is a national stage of PCT/JP98/01232; it does not claim priority from PCT/JP98/01232.

No foreign priority is claimed. It is Applicants understanding that no certified copy is required. If Applicants understanding is incorrect, the Examiner is requested to notify Applicants' representative identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

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